

MARKED-UP VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIM

1. (Amended) A soft shell for a lighting bulb assembly, comprising a [ including the] soft shell [being connected with a bulb of the bulb assembly directly and being] body formed of a transparent or semi-transparent, heat-conductible material having a predetermined outer contour, [and variable outlook] the soft shell body having an opening formed therein for receiving a light bulb therein, said opening having an inner surface portion adapted for contiguous contact with a corresponding portion of the light bulb.

REMARKS

This case has been carefully reviewed and analyzed in view of the Official Action dated 23 September 2002. Responsive to the rejection made in the Official Action, Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the combination of elements which form the invention of the subject Patent Application.

In the Official Action, the Examiner rejected Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102, as being anticipated by Shu, U.S. Patent #6,030,104. The Examiner stated that the Shu reference disclosed a soft shelled lamp shade assembly directly with a bulb, a shade body formed of soft plastics having a good light transmission, heat dissipation function and can be made in any desired shape.

Before discussing the reference relied upon by the Examiner, it is believed beneficial to first briefly review the structure of the invention of the subject Patent Application, as now claimed. The invention of the subject Patent Application is directed to a soft shell for use with a lighting bulb assembly. The soft shell comprises a soft shell body formed of a transparent or semi-transparent, heat-conductible material having a predetermined outer contour. The soft shell body has an opening therein for receiving a light bulb therein. The opening has an inner surface portion adapted for contiguous contact with a corresponding portion of the light bulb. The contiguous contact between the light bulb and the heat-conductive material provides improved heat dissipation over the prior art wherein a space is provided between the light bulb and the interior of the shell into which the bulb is inserted.

It is respectfully submitted that the Shu reference is directed to a soft shelled lamp shade having a shade body formed of soft light conducting and heat resistant plastic. As shown and described, the shade body 10 has a receiving chamber 106 formed axially within the shade body and a cylindrical body 103 projects from the axial center of the bottom surface of the shade body and includes a cavity 104 formed therein. An opening 107 is disposed between the cavity 104 and the receiving chamber 106. The opening 107 is designed to permit only the light bulb 70 to pass therethrough, thereby preventing the socket 71 from moving beyond the cavity 104. The cavity 104 is designed to have a cross-section with a diameter slightly smaller or equal to that of the bulb socket, so that it is in contiguous contact therewith. As clearly shown in the drawings, the receiving chamber 106 is larger than the bulb 70, providing an air space between the bulb 70 and the shell body 10. Therefore, regardless of how heat-conductive the material of the shell body is, the air space within the receiving chamber 106 provides reduced heat dissipation of the bulb.

Whereas in the invention of the subject Patent Application, the opening in the soft shell body has an inner surface portion adapted for contiguous contact with a corresponding portion of the light bulb, which direct contact provides improved thermal dissipation. Therefore, as the reference fails to disclose each and every one of the elements of the invention of the subject Patent Application, as now claimed, it cannot anticipate that invention. Further, as the reference teaches away from the structure of the invention of the subject Patent Application, providing an air space between the light bulb and the shell body,

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rather than direct contact therewith, it cannot make obvious that invention either.

It is now believed that the subject Patent Application has been placed in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Dated: 11 Dec. 2002

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